(d) whether it is a fact that Government have resorted to import of powerlooms which are not the remedy to the situation; and

(e) what are the details of the powerlooms imported in recent years or proposed to be imported in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM)): (a) The productivity of cotton in India during 1993-94 was 248 Kgs. per hectare. The productivity of cotton in some important cotton growing countries is as under:.—

(in Kg./Hectare)

USA	CHINA	PAKISTAN	BRAZIL
680	749	468	373

(b) A task force on cotton has been constituted to identify the constraints in cotton production and its productivity and to suggest the remedial measures.

(c) Government of India have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in major cotton growing States. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to the States for production and distribution of quality seeds, demonstration of latest *production* technology and integrated pest management, supply of Sprinklers, farmers training etc., to improve the productivity and production of cotton.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

New Economic Reforms vis-a-vis Agriculture

1676. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE he pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new economic reforms have not benefited the agriculture sector as it failed to undo tha development pattern which discriminates against agriculture;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to rectify the situation;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the agriculture sector has been suffering from some "structural weaknesses" that had rendered it incapable of drawing any benefit from liberalisation of the economy; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken to overcome that weakness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scheme for Bee keeping

1677. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch scheme to start *bee* keeping on a large scale;

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to encourage bee keeping;

(c) whether bee keeping scheme were being launched by Government earlier also;

(d) if so, the review made on the success of those schemes; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scheme on bee keeping financial support is being provided for research & development, production of bee colonies & their distribution on subsidised rates, development of infrastructure for handling and marketing of honey & its products, training & publicity etc.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on ths table of Housee.